

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01

ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 AGR-10 /160 W

----- 111080

R 291607Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9507

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LAGOS 05001

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : ECIN, XY

SUBJ : ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

REFS: A. LAGOS 4060

B. MONROVIA 0815

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1. ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) BECAME
REALITY MAY 28 WHEN TREATY WAS SIGNED AT LAGOS SUMMIT BY

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIFTEEN WEST AFRICAN MEMBER NATIONS. ECOWAS LEGALLY WILL COME INTO FORCE WHEN RATIFIED BY MINIMUM OF SEVEN MEMBERS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT FINAL VERSION OF TREATY DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM VERSION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AT MONROVIA MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST JANUARY.

2. SUMMIT CONFERENCE PRECEDED BY MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 23-4 AT WHICH FINAL TOUCHES REPORTEDLY WERE PUT ON DRAFT TREATY. MAY 26-28 SUMMIT MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY HEADS OF STATE FROM ALL MEMBER NATIONS EXCEPT GHANA (COMM FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING FELLI), GUINEA (PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI), MALI (VICE PRESIDENT DIARRA), AND SENEGAL (PRIME MINISTER DIOUF).

3. FMG SPARED NO EFFORT TO MAKE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS. IN SPEECH OPENING SUMMIT GENERAL GOWON WAS CAREFUL NOT TO PORTRAY ECOWAS AS VICTORY OF ONE SUB-GROUP OVER ANOTHER. HE SAID, "BY PROVIDING A FLEXIBLE AND WORKING INSTRUMENT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES, OUR DOUBTS AND OUR RESERVATIONS, WE BELIEVE THE TREATY HAS ATTEMPTED TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE REALITIES OF OUR SUB-REGION." NIGERIA'S PRESS GAVE SOME HEADLINES

AND EVEN PRINTED SMATTERING OF ARTICLES IN FRENCH.

4. FINAL COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWED STANDARD LINES. HEADS OF STATE AND PLENIPOTENTIARIES CALLED FOR EARLY RATIFICATION OF TREATY AND AFFIRMED THEIR "DETERMINATION TO MAKE COMMUNITY A PRAGMATIC, DYNAMIC AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTION WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES PREVAILING IN THE MEMBER STATES."

5. EMBASSY WILL SUPPLY FULL LIST OF NATIONAL DELEGATES WHEN RELEASED AND WILL AIR POUCH COPIES OF ECOWAS TREATY TO ALL ADDRESSEES WHEN AVAILABLE.

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